



## **OFFICE OF MAYOR JERRY SANDERS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 6, 2005

### **FACT SHEET**

## **Sanders Extends Winter Homeless Shelters by 20 Days as a Result of Private Fundraising Effort**

***Sycuan Leads Private Contributors by Making \$50,000 Donation to Effort  
Extra Days are Thought to be Critical to Transition from Homelessness***

Mayor Jerry Sanders today announced that the private fundraising efforts rendering \$95,000 will allow the City's Winter Shelter Program to remain open for an additional 20 days, through April 5.

### **Background:**

- During the budget deliberations for FY06 last spring, the San Diego City Council voted and funded an expansion of the Winter Shelter program from 90 days to 120-days. Total Cost: \$595,000.
- However, unavoidable repairs to the 8-year old structures required replacement of parts (spreaders, braces, vents, heater parts, etc.), all the fire-safe doors on both tents and other miscellaneous repairs in order to open the program this year. Once the repairs were completed, the remaining funding only provided 100 days for the Winter Shelter Program: \$500,000.
- **As a result, Mayor Sanders has helped raise the \$95,000 needed to keep the program open and functioning for an additional 20 days, extending the close from March 15 to April 5, 2006.**

### **Statistics for the Population Served by the Shelters:**

- Statistics for December 7, 2005 – February 28, 2006:
  - **The single adult program**, operated by Alpha Project, served:
    - 621 unduplicated men and women; 32% are believed to be seniors
    - 66% of the total population served had one or more disabilities (54%), defined by HUD as mentally ill (24%), physically disabled (34%), substance dependent (9%) and other (5%)
  - **The veteran's program**, operated by Veteran's Village of San Diego (VVSD) served:

- 431 unduplicated male veterans; 50% are believed to be seniors
- 90% of the total population served had one or more disabilities (72%), defined by HUD as mentally ill (29%), physically disabled (46%), substance dependent (30%) and other (21%)

**The Single Adult and Veterans Program has served 1,052 unduplicated men and women to date.**

- The **family program** is operated by a collaboration of the City and County of San Diego with the YWCA, SD Rescue Mission and Home Start as partners. This is an incentivized, case managed program for families with children. Unlike traditional shelter programs, there is not specific length of stay requirement at each level so each family can progress through the program as quickly as they complete the goals of their case plan.

Last year 17 of the 53 families served found some form of permanent housing upon completing their participation in the City's Winter Shelter Program.

To date this year's family program has served:

- 33 unduplicated families with 90 children
- all family heads-of-households were single mothers
- mothers reporting one or more disabilities that included 8 battered spouses, 1 veteran, 16 with chemical dependencies, and 2 physically disabled.

**Fundraising Effort:**

The following organizations donated the money necessary to keep the Winter Shelter Program operational:

Organization/Individual	Amount
Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation	\$50,000
Wells Fargo	\$7,500
Shawne Merriman (SD Chargers Player)	\$7,500
John Moores	\$5,000
San Diego National Bank	\$5,000
Weingart-Price Fund at the San Diego Foundation	\$5,000
Union Bank of California	\$5,000
Black Mountain Ranch LLC	\$5,000
Lennar	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$95,000</b>

**Generosity Abounds in Our Community**

"I want to extend my personal thanks to Sycuan and all of the others very donors for their generosity in making this extension possible. I have said that San Diego is 'America's Finest City' because of the richness of its citizens. This is proof positive that this is the case.

"Over the course of the past week, hundreds of citizens have called the City wanting to do their share to help out. We thank them and honor them as well for their generosity."

## **CITY OF SAN DIEGO SPONSORED HOMELESS PROGRAMS**

Last year a total of 11,282 people in the City of San Diego found themselves without housing for some period of time. Of those, 1,926 (17%) are considered to be chronically homeless in that they routinely live in non-housing environments *and* have some type of disability. The City's focus is on finding affordable, appropriate housing for all homeless people with an emphasis on the chronically homeless.

In that context, the City has worked with regional leaders to develop a Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. Its goal is to see a permanent solution to the issue of the homeless living on the streets and in parks, canyons and other outside areas. That solution includes treatment/recovery programs, adequate healthcare for disabilities and stable housing. The success rate of housed, rather than sheltered, chronically homeless people is very high in this type of stabilizing situation.

In addition, the City has core programs to provide interim assistance until people can reestablish a mainstream lifestyle. They include:

### **Senior Transitional Housing Program**

This is a collaborative effort of the City, Senior Community Center, SD Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team, Traveler's Aid, Centre City Development Corporation, St. Paul's Senior Villa and Community Research Foundation to provide immediate, temporary housing for homeless people 60+ years. The program places seniors into 35 master-leased rooms in a downtown single room occupancy hotel. It provides case management and access to the senior day center meals and services at Broadway and 9th. In addition to those accommodations, the program also provides 2 nursing units at St. Paul's. The program serves about 90 seniors per year.

### **Cortez Hill Family Center (CHFC)**

CHFC is a transitional housing program for 47 homeless families with an average of 100 young children each day. The City's operator is the YWCA which provides counseling, legal services to obtain child support, job preparation, child care and other supportive services to reestablish a stable lifestyle. It serves approximately 90 families per year, touching 600 individual lives in those families.

### **Winter Shelter Program**

This is a short-term City program that provides shelter from the cold nights and winter rains for 120 days (December – April). The City contracts with the Alpha Project to operate the 200-bed single adult facility (72% of the homeless population). The 150-bed veteran (20% of the homeless population) program is operated by Veterans Village of San Diego as the contractor with the City. In addition, there is an incentivized case managed family program that maximizes the efforts of families to obtain permanent housing. Although a City program, it is a partnership with the County, YWCA, SD Rescue Mission, and Home Start.

### **Neil Good Day Center**

This City program is operated by Alpha Project and provides a refuge for homeless persons who are without shelter. It provides an opportunity to shower, make calls, do laundry, receive referrals to shelters and services and recovery meetings as well as other related services. The center provides a place for 250 homeless adults to be during the day.

### **Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)**

A program of the City's Police Department, the program provides direct service placements using field interviews, PERT (Psychiatric Emergency Response Technician) completes clinical evaluations and the County provides workers to identify income resources resulting in appropriate housing placements.

### **Serial Inebriate Program (SIP)**

The SIP program is a collaborative between the judicial system and the Police Department with support from the City Attorney's office. It provides recovery and treatment as an alternative to jail time for convictions of multiple drunkenness in public citations. Once the individual has made the choice to pursue recovery, the SIP team provides appropriate placements and oversight in a recovery program. Approximately 50% of those who choose recovery over jail succeed in leading sober, successful lives.

### **Additional Program Support**

The City also funds and participates in the **Regional Task Force on the Homeless**, a non-profit agency providing a centralized statistical home for information on the homeless population. These statistics provide information to enable agencies, both private and public, to make more intelligent policy decisions, achieve necessary program redesign and develop prevention strategies throughout the region.

The City participates in the Regional Continuum of Care Council where it works to develop and maintain a funding stream to help non-profit agencies in the City receive millions of dollars in federal grant funds each year.